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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 51

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

Thomas A. Anderson

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO STUDY THE MERITS OF
EXPANDING THE PERMITTED USES OF THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
FUND TO INCLUDE TRAINING AND THE PLACEMENT OF DEFIBRILLATORS
UNDER THE CARDIAC ARREST RESPONSE ACT.

WHEREAS, more than two hundred fifty thousand people die
in the United States each year of sudden cardiac arrest before
they reach a hospital; and

WHEREAS, sudden cardiac arrest strikes people of all ages
and fitness levels, usually without warning; and

WHEREAS, many of these lives could be saved if bystanders
immediately summoned help by calling 911, if they began
cardiopulmonary resuscitation and if they provided
defibrillation with an automatic external defibrillator; and

WHEREAS, the chances of surviving sudden cardiac arrest

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1 decrease by up to ten percent with each minute that passes
2 without cardiopulmonary resuscitation and defibrillation; and

3 WHEREAS, the Cardiac Arrest Response Act encourages the
4 placement of automatic external defibrillators in areas where
5 people gather and sets standards for training people in their
6 use; and

7 WHEREAS, since the Cardiac Arrest Response Act was enacted
8 in 1999, more than one hundred sixty automatic external
9 defibrillator programs have been implemented across New Mexico,
10 significantly increasing the chances of survival of people
11 stricken by sudden cardiac arrest; and

12 WHEREAS, entities wishing to initiate an automatic
13 external defibrillator program are responsible for the costs of
14 training potential responders and purchasing and maintaining
15 the defibrillators; and

16 WHEREAS, it may be wise to consider expanding the
17 statutory purposes for which the emergency medical services
18 fund may be used to include those costs;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be requested
21 to study the merits of expanding the Emergency Medical Services
22 Fund Act to allow qualified entities to receive funding for
23 training and equipment under the Cardiac Arrest Response Act
24 and to report its findings and recommendations, if any, to the
25 appropriate interim committee of the legislature by November

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1 30, 2009; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
3 transmitted to the secretary of health.

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